

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 16077 181626Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 NIC-01 (ISO) W

----- 021159

R 181530Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8248

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN LEFTIST POLITICANS ATTACK GOI AMBASSADOR IN LISBON

1. THE CURRENT ISSUE (DATED NOVEMBER 21) OF IL MONDO, INDEPENDENT, LEFT-OF-CENTER ROMAN WEEKLY, CARRIES THE FULL TEXT OF A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ANALYSIS OF THE PORTUGUESE SCENE FROM ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MESSERI IN LISBON. THE REPORT IS SOMBER IN TONE, CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNING JUNTA, AND ALARMING IN REGARD TO THE POWER OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS. IT HAS ELICITED CRITICAL COMMENT IN THE PAESE SERA, ROME'S FAR-LEFT COMMUNIST ORIENTED DAILY, AND HAS BEEN RAISED IN THE SENATE. COMMUNIST SENATOR PECCHIOLI ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHETHER THE MONDO ARTICLE IN FACT COMPRISES A REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR MESSARI AND, IF SO, "WHAT MEASURES (THE GOI) INTENDS TO TAKE TO ASSURE THAT ITALY WILL BE REPRESENTED IN

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PAGE 02 ROME 16077 181626Z

PORTUGAL BY A DIPLOMAT ABLE TO COMPREHEND THE NEW DEMOCRATIC

REALITIES IN THAT COUNTRY AND TO EXPRESS THERE THE DEMOCRATIC ITALIAN REALITY."

2. THE EMBASSY IS PREPARING AND WILL SHORTLY FORWARD A TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES TELL US THAT THE MONDO ARTICLE IS A FULL AND ACCURATE COPY OF MESSERI'S REPORT, AND SPECULATE THAT THE LEAK ENTAILS AN EFFORT TO REPLACE MESSERI WITH A MORE "PROGRESSIVE" AMBASSADOR. ONE CONTACT BELIEVES THAT THE LEAK WAS ARRANGED BY SOCIALIST (PSI) UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE CESARE BENSI, HOPING TO OPEN THE EMBASSY IN LISBON FOR ONE OF HIS PSI COLLEAGUES. OTHERS SPECULATE THAT THE LEAK (A XEROXED COPY OF THE REPORT SAID TO HAVE BEEN MAILED ANONYMOUSLY TO IL MONDO), WAS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE "FARNESINA DEMOCRATICA", A GROUP OF YOUNGER LEFT-OF-CENTER OFFICERS IN THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. WHATEVER THE SOURCE, THE STORY PRESUMABLY MAKES AMBASSADOR MESSERI'S TASK MORE DIFFICULT, TO SAY THE LEAST. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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